

by all parties involved in these negotiations to reach this pivotal stage in the settlement process, which as I understand is near conclusion. I also praise my colleague, Senator JON KYL, and the Interior Secretary, Bruce Babbitt, for their front-line leadership in facilitating the settlement process. From my previous role in legislating past agreements, I recognize how challenging these negotiations can be, and I appreciate their personal commitment to this settlement process.

This legislation is vitally important to Arizona's future because it will finally bring certainty and stability to Arizona's water supply by completing the final adjudication of the Gila River. Repayment obligations of the state of Arizona for construction of the Central Arizona Project (CAP) will be addressed as part of this bill. Pending water rights claims to the Gila River and its tributaries by various Indian tribes and non-Indian users will be permanently settled and allocated.

I join Senator KYL, and the rest of the Arizona delegation, in sponsoring companion bills today to express our strong support for continuation and conclusion of this settlement process. While much of the negotiations have successfully resulted in consensus language among the various parties, it is important to emphasize that this bill does not reflect the final settlement agreement. All parties recognize that the provisions of this bill are likely to change as the negotiations continue and additional parties settle remaining claims. We fully expect that settlement negotiations will continue with a final agreement ratified in the 107th congressional session.

Mr. President, my sponsorship of this bill indicates my strong support for the settlement process and I expect that further negotiations will be carried out in good-faith among all parties. However, I want to be clear that my support today is not a full endorsement of all the provisions in this preliminary bill.

This is a particularly important point as several provisions in this bill are not typical of language included in past Indian water settlement agreements ratified by the Congress. These noted provisions are intended to prescribe future off-reservation Indian trust land acquisitions for the Gila River Indian Community, one of the primary Indian parties to the settlement. Inclusion of these provisions is intended to address water management concerns of the state in the event that the tribe removes lands from either public or private use to be added into federal Indian trust land status.

Mr. President, Indian trust land acquisitions are the subject of much debate nationwide. In fact, the Department of Interior has proposed modifications to its existing regulations to address many of the same concerns

raised by the state parties regarding potential impacts to resource management, loss of tax revenues, or other impacts to neighboring communities. These regulations have not been finalized to date.

Despite my support for the overall settlement, I believe it unwise to include ad hoc language that applies restrictions to only one particular tribe when overall changes to the underlying federal law governing Indian trust land acquisitions have not been settled. Such modifications to federal Indian trust land policies should also be guided by the review and advice of the congressional committees of jurisdiction. I hope that continuing discussions on this matter will result in a resolution that respects both the rights of the Indian tribes and the state of Arizona, consistent with applicable laws.

Mr. President, we introduce this bill today as an expression of our commitment to the various parties to successfully achieve conclusion to this process. The Arizona Water Settlements Act will be a historic accomplishment and one that will ultimately benefit all citizens of Arizona, the tribal communities, and the United States.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1570

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1570, a bill to amend the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to promote identification of children eligible for benefits under, and enrollment of children in, the medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance programs.

S. 2789

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2789, a bill to amend the Congressional Award Act to establish a Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Board.

S. 2887

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2887, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received on account of claims based on certain unlawful discrimination and to allow income averaging for backpay and frontpay awards received on account of such claims, and for other purposes.

S. 2938

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2938, a bill to prohibit United States assistance to the Palestinian Authority if a Palestinian state is declared unilaterally, and for other purposes.

S. 3067

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE), and the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3067, a bill to require changes in the bloodborne pathogens standard in effect under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

S. 3089

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3089, a bill to authorize the design and construction of a temporary education center at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

S. 3131

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3131, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure that the Secretary of Health and Human Services provides appropriate guidance to physicians and other health care providers that are attempting to properly submit claims under the medicare program and to ensure that the Secretary targets truly fraudulent activity for enforcement of medicare billing regulations, rather than inadvertent billing errors.

S. 3145

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. THOMPSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3145, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment under the tax-exempt bond rules of prepayments for certain commodities

S. 3181

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3181, a bill to establish the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance, and for other purposes.

S. 3198

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3198, a bill to provide a pool credit under Federal milk marketing orders for handlers of certified organic milk used for Class I purposes.

S. CON. RES. 138

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 138, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a day of peace and sharing should be established at the beginning of each year.

S. RES. 340

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr.